

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 041812Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1332
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 09802

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, UR, GW
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: BUILDUP AND DEPARTURE

REF: MOSCOW 9068

SUMMARY. FINAL SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY PRIOR TO BREZHNEV
TRIP TO FRG CONTINUES TO INDICATE THAT MOSCOW HAS NO
MAJOR EXPECTATIONS FOR VISIT, THAT STRESS WILL BE ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SOVIET DISARM-
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AMENT INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO THE NEUTRON
WEAPON. FRG EMBASSY REPORTS DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATING
TEXT OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE. SOVIET TV CARRIED LIVE COVERAGE
OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FOR BONN. END SUMMRY.

1. FRG EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT THAT NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING COMMUNIQUE WERE STILL CONTINUING ON EVENING

OF MAY 3. FRG CHARGE TOLD ACTING DCM THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE THREE TREATIES HELD UP OVER THE BERLIN CLAUSE WOULD BE SIGNED AND, WHEN ASKED WHAT HE EXPECTED THE VISIT TO ACCOMPLISH, WAS HARD PRESSED TO POINT TO ANY SPECIFIC GAIN ANTICIPATED BY BONN. FRG CHARGE EARLIER TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ON APRIL 29 FRG AMBASSADOR WIECK HAD SEEN GROMYKO, WHO HAD EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM CONCERNING THE SINCERITY OF THE FRG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION AND TOWARD DETENTE.

2. SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF FRG HAS CONTINUED TO STRESS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE VISIT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ACKNOWLEDGING THAT "DIFFICULTIES" CONTINUE TO EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. PARTICULAR STRESS HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE UNFULFILLED POTENTIAL OF SOVIET-FRG ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND ON THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED BY WEST GERMANY IN EXPANDING THESE RELATIONS. THIS POINT WAS ALSO MADE BY BREZHNEV IN HIS VORWAERTS INTERVIEW, IN WHICH HE COMPLAINED OF FRG RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET IMPORTS AND CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL MFN STATUS FOR THE USSR.

- SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BREZHNEV WILL LAY CONSIDERABLE STRESS IN BONN ON A VARIETY OF DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AND WILL PRESS PARTICULARLY VIGOROUSLY THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NEUTRON
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WEAPON. THE PRESS HAS CLAIMED THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT WILL HAVE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY FOR SOVIET-FRG BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN GENERAL. PRAVDA ON MAY 3 NOTED THAT WITHOUT STEPS IN THE AREA OF DISARMAMENT, DETENTE WILL BE "CHOKED." IN THIS RESPECT, WE NOTE BREZHNEV'S NONE TOO SUBTLE EFFORT TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG IN DISARMAMENT BY NOTING THAT GERMANS UNDERSTAND BETTER "THAN, SAY, RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES," THE HORRORS OF WAR.

4. BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE WAS SHOWN LIVE ON SOVIET TV AT 9:30 A.M. MAY 4. HIS APPEARANCE AND MOVEMENTS SEEMED NORMAL, BUT HE APPEARED A BIT DISORGANIZED DURING THE BRIEF PLANESIDE CEREMONIES. HE HEADED FOR THE AIRPLANE AFTER SHAKING HANDS WITH HIS LEADERSHIP COLLEAGUES (NO KISSING ON THIS OCCASION), THEN HAD TO TURN BACK FOR THE STANDARD DEPARTURE PHOTOGRAPH, WHICH HE APPARENTLY HAD FORGOTTEN. AFTER THE PHOTO SESSION, HE AGAIN HEADED FOR THE AIRPLANE, WHEN GROMYKO CAME FORWARD TO REMIND LEONID IL'ICH THAT HE SHOULD ALSO SAY GOODBY TO THE FRG EMBASSY OFFICERS PRESENT. BREZHNEV ONCE AGAIN TURNED AROUND AND WALKED BACK TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE FRG CONTINGENT,

STANDING TO THE SIDE OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP GROUP.
TOON

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